



BLM Alaska FRONTIERS

News about BLM-managed
public lands in Alaska

ISSUE 89 SUMMER 2003

BLM to take second look at Northeast NPR-A

Six years ago in 1997 when the Northeast NPRA Integrated Activity Plan was being developed, BLM took a conservative approach to oil and gas development. The final plan kept about 598,000 acres near Teshekpuk Lake off limits to any type of exploration. An additional 240,000 acres south and west of the lake were made available for lease but stipulations prohibited surface occupancy.

BLM geologists and other petroleum experts believe the areas unavailable to leasing may contain more than two billion barrels of technically-recoverable petroleum (assuming a market value of \$20/barrel). This is nearly four times larger than some estimates for the nearby Alpine field.

The high petroleum values are consistent with the location and size of other fields discovered along the Barrow Arch, a geologic structure known for its ability to produce large quantities of oil. It roughly parallels the northern coastline of Alaska in a narrow belt also occupied by millions of lakes and ponds utilized by migratory waterfowl. The overlap of resource values is most obvious at Teshekpuk Lake. This lake (at 315 square miles, the third largest in Alaska) and many smaller lakes around it contain important nesting, staging and molting habitat for large

numbers of ducks, geese and swans. It was designated as Special Area in 1977.

"The challenge for BLM will be to develop a strategy that can provide some additional access to industry in a manner that will remain sensitive to biological and subsistence values," says BLM Alaska State Director Henri Bisson.

"Since the 1999 lease sale we have had four seasons of winter exploration with 13 test wells drilled nearby. We've learned a lot about what works and what doesn't," said Bisson. BLM has a number of studies in place evaluating the impacts of oil development on waterfowl, caribou, subsistence, groundwater and other resources (see the Spring 2003 issue of *BLM-Alaska Frontiers*). These studies will be critical to helping BLM meet its multiple use mandates in an area rated extremely high for a number of resource values. In addition, BLM is proposing a new way to allocate funding studies across the entire North Slope (see related story on page 11) to assure that the highest priorities are funded first.

Another goal of the plan will be to try to develop surface management procedures that will be

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Also in this issue...



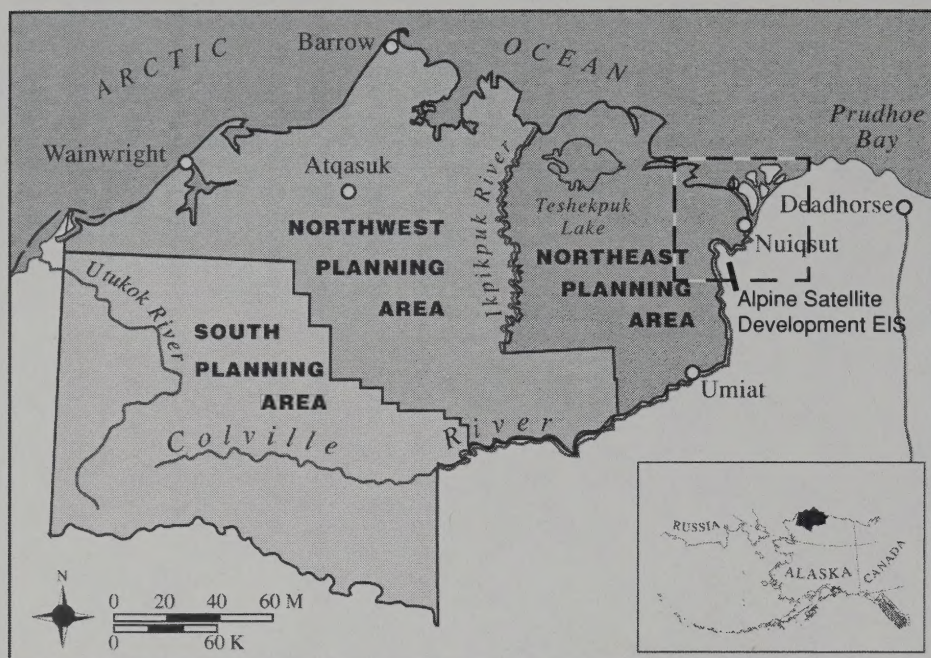
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similar to those being developed for the 8.8 million acres to the west. "Having the same set of rules in place for all portions of the reserve will make things easier for everyone involved," says BLM Northern Field Manager Bob Schneider.

BLM will develop a schedule for revising the plan soon and post information on its website: www.ak.blm.gov. Curtis Wilson (907-271-5546) has been named interim project manager.

The environmental impact statement will take at least 18 months to complete. As is the case with all EISs, the public will have two opportunities to comment, once before the analysis begins (the scoping phase) and then again after BLM issues a draft plan. Scoping meetings will be scheduled for September and comments accepted through September 30. The entire process should be completed by the end of 2004.

NPRA at a glance

Updating 1998 land use plan for the northeast corner of the NPRA means there now are three plans in progress. The other two plans are on schedule as follows:

Alpine Satellite Development Update

The initial public comment period ended March 31. Thirty-eight comments were received. The team is evaluating the public comments and developing alternatives to be analyzed. A draft EIS will be published for public comment in December 2003.

For more information, check the project website:
www.alpine-satellites-eis.com.

Northwest NPRA Update

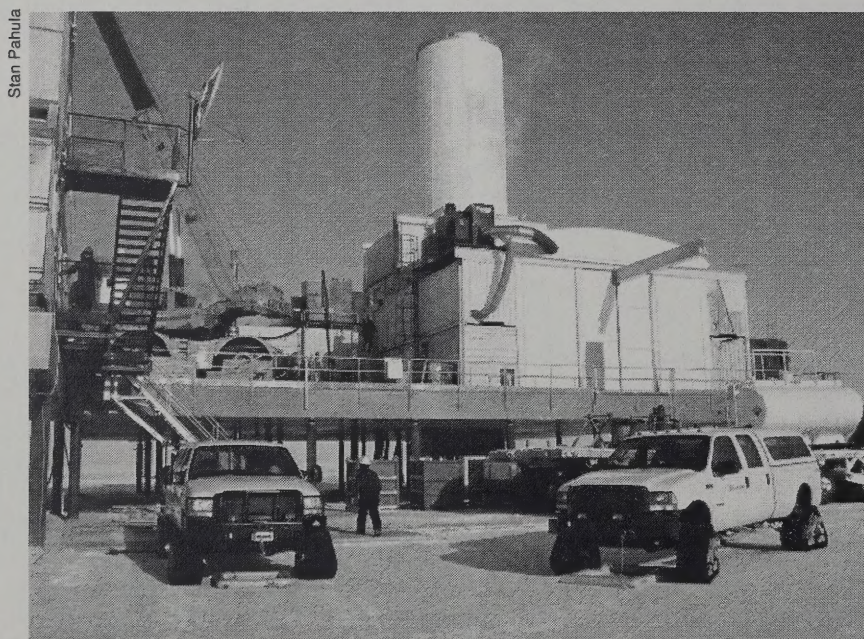
The draft EIS was published in January 2003 and outlined four possible management scenarios but it did not identify a preferred alternative.

BLM received more than 96,000 comments by email, fax or mail. While many of these were repetitive in nature, substantial and lengthy comments were received from the State of Alaska, environmental groups and industry.

BLM is evaluating the comments to develop its preferred alternative.

That alternative will be included in the final EIS scheduled for release in November, 2003.

The project website is:
www.ak.blm.gov/wnnpa/index.html.



(left) In March BLM staff visited Anadarko's prototype Arctic drilling platform drilling a gas hydrate well south of Kuparuk. The modular platform sits on legs above the tundra, avoiding the need to construct icepads.

Innovations such as this may be necessary in NPRA at some point in the future as development moves farther away from existing infrastructure and the drilling season shortens due to climate changes.

Mother-daughter team earns national volunteer award

BLM chose two Alaskans among the nine 2003 National Volunteer Awards for "Making a Difference" on the public lands. Cara Wardlaw-Bailey and Beryl Wardlaw are volunteers at the BLM Anchorage Field Office Campbell Creek Science Center.

In 1999, Cara Wardlaw-Bailey was a high school student with a budding interest in plants. She decided to develop and nurture that interest at the Campbell Creek Science Center in Anchorage. Too young to drive herself to work at the Science Center, she enlisted the assistance of her mother, Beryl Wardlaw. This mother-daughter team quickly became chief stewards of the Science Center's herbarium.

They have collected, mounted, and identified nearly 200 Alaskan plant specimens, almost a third of which are from the Campbell Tract. They've worked with staff to create an



Campbell Creek Science Center

herbarium guide designed to help others access the collection; developed a database to catalog specimens; expanded the collection to include specimens from nearby Chugach State Park; developed plant mounts for educational use; began a digital photo collection of plants on the Campbell Tract; and started a willow collection in the herbarium.

Cara and Beryl have contributed more than 400 hours of service to the Science Center and also inspired others to join them. They have trained 19 other volunteers to collect, preserve, and catalog plants for the herbarium. "Cara and Beryl have made an invaluable record of plant life on the Campbell Tract," says Jeff Brune, Campbell Creek Science Center Manager. "Their herbarium will be used by the Center for years to come."

Nationally, BLM recruits 17,000 to 20,000 volunteers each year to perform a variety of jobs from campground host to archaeologist to educator. In many cases, volunteers serve as BLM's first contact with the public, becoming an important ambassador for the agency. In some remote areas, campgrounds and other recreation sites would be closed if volunteers were not able to help. In order to acknowledge these invaluable volunteer contributions, BLM began its "Making a



Cara Wardlaw-Bailey

Difference" national awards in 1995 and held its first formal recognition ceremony in 1996. This year's observance marks the eighth annual presentation of these awards. The awards were presented at a special ceremony at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., on May 8.

A national panel of BLM and partner organization representatives selected the winners from a large pool of nominations submitted by BLM offices. The award recipients were chosen for their exceptional efforts in management and conservation of the public lands and their resources, rather than for length of service or number of hours contributed.

—Luise Woelflein



Beryl Wardlaw

A new day dawns on an old world

State of Alaska gains title to additional acreage around Tangle Lakes



The eastern end of the Denali Highway is a unique area long recognized for its nationally-significant cultural resources and its outstanding geologic features left from the retreat of Ice Age glaciers. It offers evidence of some of the earliest evidence of human occupation in North America dating back more than 10,000 years. In 1971 the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD) was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its wealth of historic and prehistoric remains.

However, the long-time management of a portion of the TLAD by the Bureau of Land Management is about to change. This spring, BLM transferred approximately 235,000 acres of land to the State of Alaska under the provisions of the Alaska Statehood Act of 1958, including about 41,339 within the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District.

If you are taking a canoe or float trip on the Delta River, this means that the lands adjacent to the river corridor (roughly a half mile on either side of the lake/river system) north of the highway to about where Cabin Creek flows into the river, are now managed by the State of Alaska.

If you will be driving along the Denali Highway, this will mean that most of the lands immediately north of the highway from Paxson to just before the Maclaren River are managed by the State of Alaska. The only exceptions are the Tangle Lakes Campground and the Delta National Wild and Scenic River Wayside and Trailhead; they are within the Wild and Scenic River corridor and will remain under BLM management.

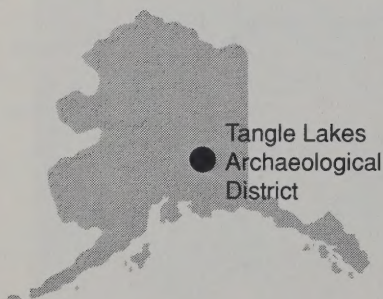
Although two different agencies will manage the district, both are committed to safeguarding its abundant cultural resources which are protected from unauthorized collection under federal and state laws.

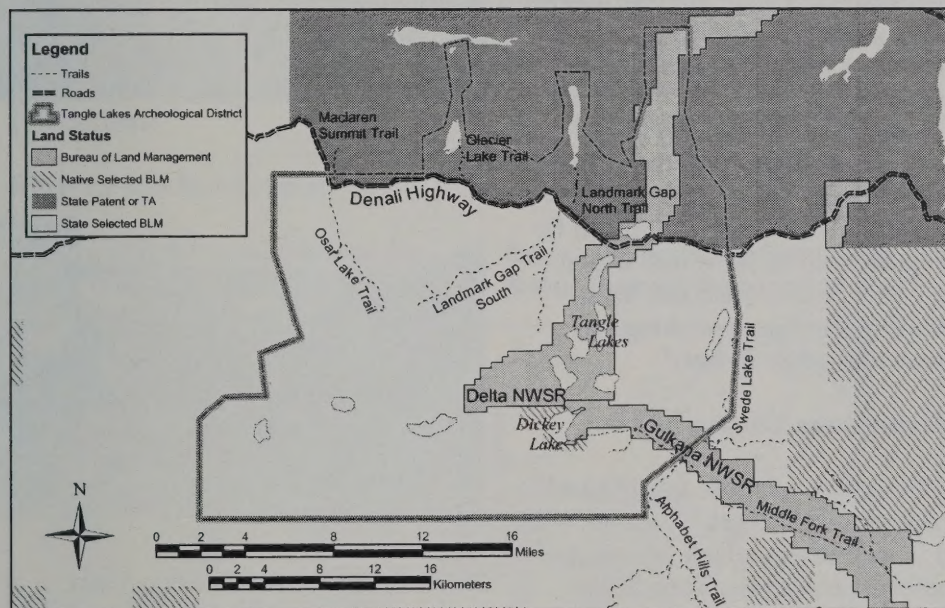
The State of Alaska will establish a Special Use Area (SUA) for the northern portion of the TLAD and will allow the State to impose special stipulations restricting the use of motorized vehicles thereby continuing BLM's restrictions for remaining on designated trails during periods of inadequate snowcover. The State will also establish a Leasehold Location Order (LLO) to restrict mineral rights to protect cultural resources. The boundary of the LLO is slightly larger than the SUA, however, both exclude the federally-managed Delta National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River corridor.

The BLM and the State of Alaska also formalized an agreement to share cultural resource information during land conveyances. The State's Office of History and Archaeology recently hired Richard Vanderhoek to manage the TLAD.

Most of the southern portion of the TLAD remains under selection by the State of Alaska, but will be managed by BLM until the land is conveyed to the State. Currently, the State of Alaska has not indicated that these lands are a high priority, but priorities are subject to change.

—KJ Mushovic





The Denali Highway, the original travel route to Denali National Park, provides access to Tangle Lakes as well as offering a scenic driving adventure past the dramatic peaks of the Alaska Range.

(photo above) In addition to the world-class archaeological significance of the Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD), the local geology contributes to the highly scenic vistas. The district also offers a number of other recreational opportunities, many of which are related to the system of lakes and rivers in the vicinity.

What will change?

Federal subsistence hunting – no change at this time

State subsistence hunting – no change at this time

Use of off-highway vehicles – seasonal restrictions and use of designated trails will continue both north and south of the highway

Archaeology – BLM and the state will continue to inventory cultural resources of the TLAD under their respective management

On the ground enforcement – BLM will continue to have staff presence, including law enforcement rangers, south of the highway. The State of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources is planning to hire a natural resource specialist to monitor use and conditions of the trails and private and commercial activities, and, to prepare land use authorizations.

Subtle Secrets of the Steese

Only 75 miles northeast of Fairbanks, BLM manages a remarkable area whose expanse of meandering rivers, boreal forests, and high, tundra-covered ridges remains little known outside Alaska.

The Steese National Conservation Area's (SNCA) relative obscurity belies a wealth of scenery, resources, history, and rich wildlife habitat encompassing all of the classic features of Alaska's interior. Those who have spent time there know that the SNCA contains places of startling and unique beauty.

The SNCA consists of two halves, the North Unit and the South Unit, located on either side of the Steese Highway. At 1.2 million acres, the SNCA is one of the largest components of BLM's National Landscape Conservation System, comprised of national monuments, congressionally-designated national conservation areas, and other areas designated for their important

scientific and ecological features.

Congress cited protection of caribou range as one of its reasons for establishing the SNCA in 1980. Lands within the SNCA actually constitute only a small portion of the summer and winter ranges of the Fortymile Caribou Herd which now numbers some 46,000 animals. However, the herd uses the entire South Unit as winter habitat and the southern edge of this area includes one of the herd's most productive calving areas.

"The country definitely looks alive when caribou have been there," says Northern Field Office wildlife biologist Jim Herriges. "You can fly over miles and miles where it seems that every square yard has been tracked by caribou searching for lichens and other forage."

A River Runs Through It

The SNCA was also established to protect Birch Creek National Wild and Scenic River, which follows a U-shaped course through the South Unit. In the Fairbanks area, Birch Creek may be best known as a one-week float trip notable not only for its scenery but for its convenience — floaters can access both ends of the river from BLM recreation sites along the Steese Highway. Birch Creek floaters pass old cabin ruins, melting banks of permafrost, still spruce forests, and peregrine falcon nests atop jagged bluffs.

After working in the SNCA for many years, Herriges finally floated



Craig McCaa

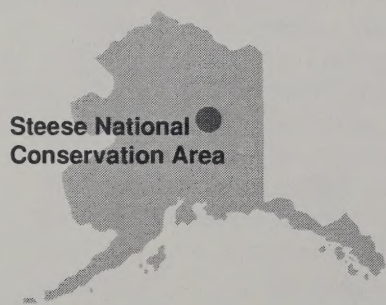


Dennis R. Green

Birch Creek for the first time last summer. He found himself surprised by how remote the country felt.

"It's a road-to-road float, but you really feel like you're out there," Herriges says. "And that's especially true when something goes wrong — like you swamp your canoe on the second day of the trip and have to fish your gear out of the river."

It was on Birch Creek that miners discovered gold in 1893,



Steese National Conservation Area

touching off one of Alaska's first gold rushes. Today only one placer mine operates within the SNCA, but stream valleys in the South Unit still contain scores of mining claims.

Much of the mining in the SNCA occurred in the decades before miners were required to reclaim. Ditches, trenches, and piles of gravel line stream valleys for many miles in some areas. BLM and the U.S. Geological Survey are midway through a five-year study to see if these damaged streams are degrading downstream fish habitat and water quality. Work is also proceeding to remove old equipment and buildings from abandoned mining camps.

In winter the South Unit is a quiet place occasionally visited by trappers, snowmachiners, or intrepid cross-country skiers. The quiet is briefly broken in February, when the dogmushers and their teams follow sections of Birch Creek during the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race, a 1,000-mile event between Fairbanks and Whitehorse.

around 5,286-foot Mt. Prindle, which straddles the boundary between the SNCA and the White Mountains National Recreation Area. Here gushing streams descend glacier-carved valleys between barren, wind-swept ridges. Dizzying cliffs and strange, spire-like rock formations called *tors* jut from the tundra, attracting both rock-climbers and Dall sheep.

This striking landscape also draws painters and photographers. The work of one local painter, Bill Brody, is featured in Fairbanks' new federal courthouse. Hanging over the courthouse's foyer is Brody's 28-foot-long mural of the American Creek valley and Mt. Prindle.

During numerous trips into the Steese NCA, Brody says he found himself captivated by the rugged, mountainous terrain and wilderness character of the area around Mt. Prindle. He spent a thousand hours creating his mural "A Wilderness of Mystery" by shaping, carving, and painting sheets of copper.

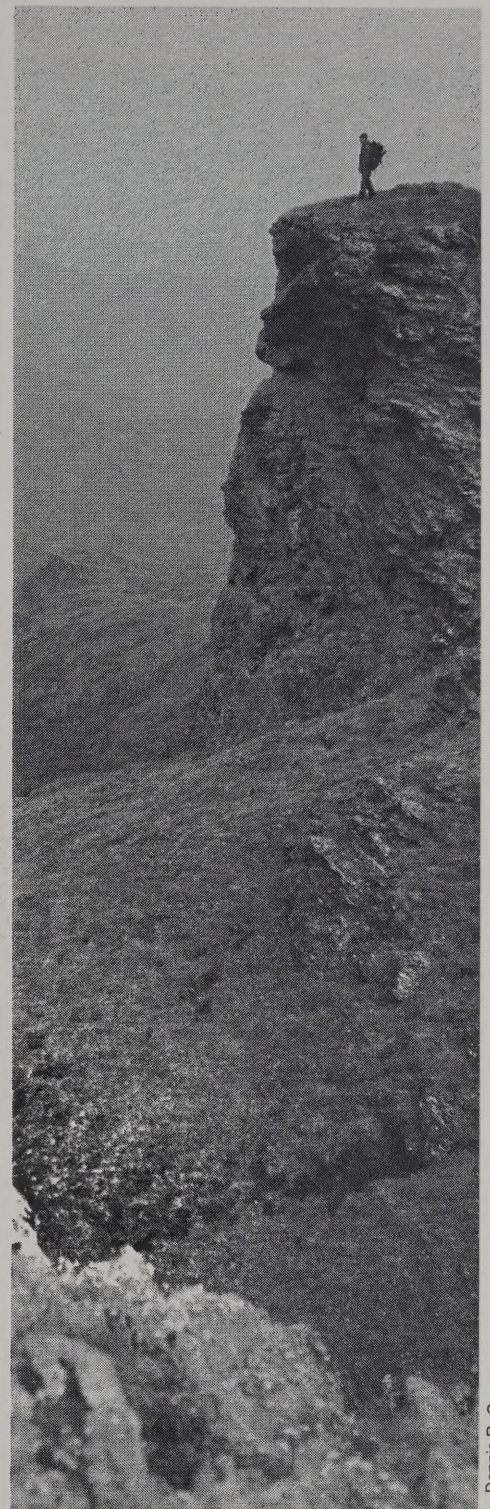
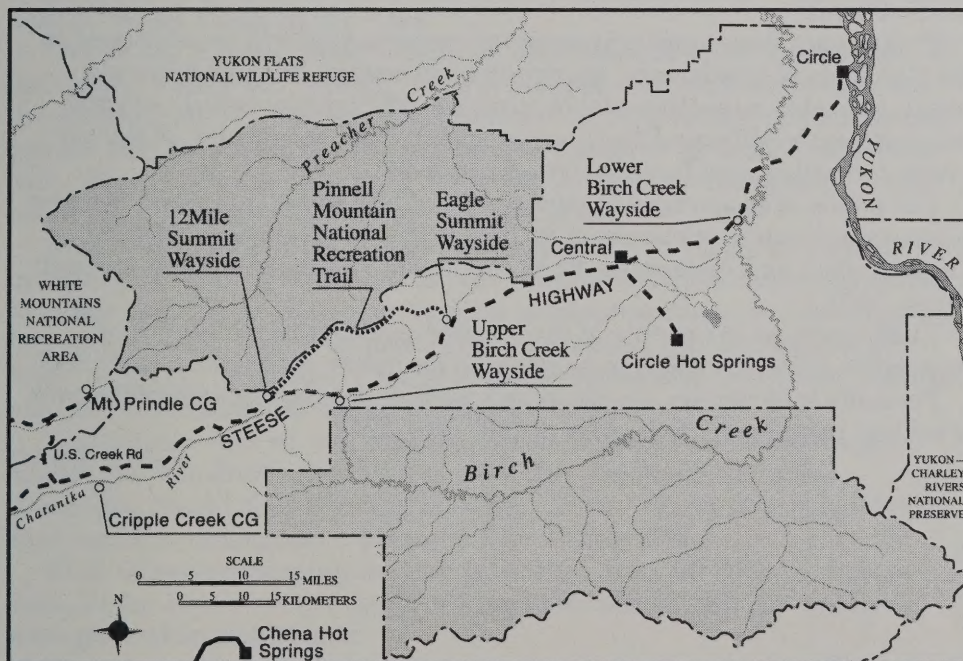
Another of the North Unit's attractions is the 27-mile-long

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High in the North Unit

One of the crown jewels of the North Unit is the high country

(below) The North and South Units of the Steese National Conservation Area.



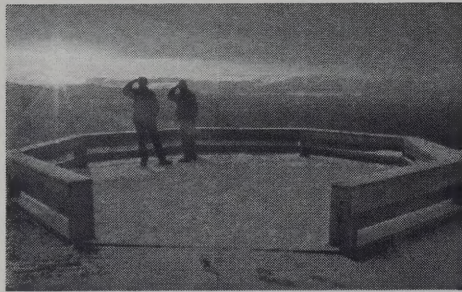
Dennis R. Green

(top left) The Steese Highway offers several locations where you can view a midnight sunset in June.

(left center) Fairbanks' new federal courthouse showcases Bill Brody's 28-foot Steese panorama painting.

(left bottom) Pinnell Mountain trailhead. (above right) Hiker enjoys view on the Pinnell Mountain Trail.

Steese, continued from page 7



An August snowstorm breaks for travelers at the the Eagle Summit.

Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail, widely known as the PMT. The trail traverses wildflower-studded alpine ridges on the western edge of the North Unit.

Numerous magazines and websites have profiled the PMT, one of the few developed hiking trails in the interior. Recreation planner Holli McClain, who hikes the trail several times each summer, is by now accustomed to meeting hikers from all over North America and Europe.

"European hikers I've met on the trail tell me the PMT is one of their main stops in Alaska," says McClain. "I ask, 'And you heard about it in Europe?' They say, 'Oh yes!'"

The PMT aside, the SNCA usually languishes in obscurity. That has changed in recent months because of a controversial idea to connect Chena Hot Springs and Arctic Circle Hot Springs with a highway that would cross the South Unit and Birch Creek. Proponents say the road would enhance tourism and make the area more accessible for resource development. Opponents point out the project's high cost and possible environmental impacts to the SNCA.

So far, no firm project proposal has materialized. If one does, BLM will have to determine whether it would be compatible with the special values for which Congress designated Alaska's only national conservation area.

—Craig McCaa

Two new land use plans launched for southern Alaska



Ring of Fire Plan

The BLM's Anchorage Field Office is preparing a resource management plan for 1.3 million acres of public land along the southern coast of Alaska.

The planning area includes all of the public land and federal mineral estate managed by the AFO from below Dixon Entrance in southeast Alaska to Attu Island at the western end of the Aleutian Island Chain, a linear distance of approximately 2,500 miles. It also includes the western portions of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough in Southcentral Alaska, the Kodiak Island Borough, portions of the Alaska Peninsula, and the Aleutian Islands. The plan, known as the Ring of Fire, takes its name from the geologically-dynamic area of earthquakes and volcanos that surrounds the Pacific Ocean.

Preliminary issues and management concerns that will be addressed in the plan include subsistence; energy and non-energy leasable minerals; access; locatable minerals; salable minerals; off-highway vehicle use and designations; wildfire and fuels management; wild, scenic and recreation rivers; recreation; and land tenure adjustments.

The public is encouraged to participate in developing this plan. Scoping meetings have already been held in Juneau, Skagway, Haines, Wasilla, Kenai, Kodiak and Anchorage. BLM will accept scoping comments through July 1, 2003.

BLM report on the results of the scoping meetings in mid-July and expects the Draft RMP/EIS to be released for public comment in early 2005.

For more information, see the plan's website www.alaskaringoffire.com or contact team leader Bob Lloyd at (907) 267-1214.

—Donna Gindle



Hiking and off-highway vehicle use on a trail near Slana, Alaska. This particular trail leads to public lands managed by the State of Alaska and appears to be used primarily for hunting access. Access is one of this issues that has been identified for study by the two land use plans.

Planning for East Alaska

Hundreds of people interested in helping guide BLM's management of more than seven million acres of public land attended one of the 28 public meetings hosted by the Glennallen Field Office this spring. The East Alaska Planning Area includes significant tracts of public land between Glennallen and Valdez, near Eureka and Slana, north and south of the Denali Highway, as well as the Gulkana National Wild River and the Delta National Wild, Scenic and Recreational River.

"We heard about some issues that were specific to certain areas," said planning team leader Bruce Rogers, "but several issues were consistently brought up just about everywhere. These primarily revolved around access, trails and the need for information on land ownership and allowable uses. Other frequently cited issues included user conflicts, subsistence, and the need to reduce wildland fire risks."

"We've had a really great turnout of folks from the small communities of the Copper Valley and beyond," reports Liz Rice, outreach coordinator for the planning effort. "The meetings were set up to facilitate interaction and opinion sharing among the participants, and seem to have done that quite well. Bruce Rogers is devoting a great deal of time into researching issues and finding answers to questions that people had."

Glennallen Field Office resource specialists are currently researching and inventorying existing resources and their condition, while Rogers continues to collect and review comments from the scoping meetings and consultations he's with various interest groups. This information will be a significant factor to help BLM develop a range of management alternatives for the draft plan and environmental impact statement (EIS).

"I anticipate that we will conduct another series of public meetings to discuss possible draft alternatives before they are finalized," noted Glennallen Field Office Manager Ramone McCoy. "Folks should look for a draft resource management plan and EIS in early 2005."

BLM will accept scoping comments through June 18, 2003. For more East Alaska Resource Management Plan information, visit our website: www.glennallen.ak.blm.gov.

—KJ Mushovic

Gulkana National Wild River Planning Update

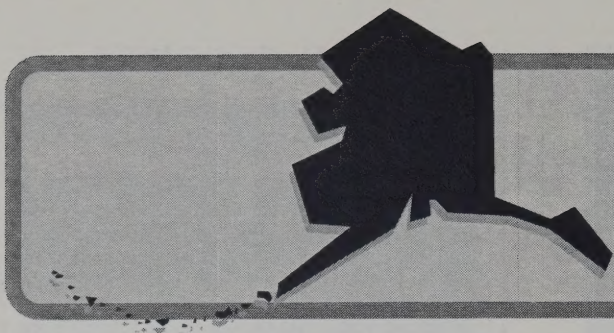
Management Plan. It's been about a year since the last round of public meetings were held to discuss potential management actions within the National Wild River (NWR) corridor. Consultation and coordination with the State of Alaska, the Native Village of Gulkana, and Ahtna, Inc., continues. Several positive opportunities for cooperative and consistent management of the lower river are under consideration.

Check it out, then pack it out. A dump station for portable toilets has been installed near the boat launch at Sourdough Creek Campground. See how it works on your next visit. Better yet, bring a portable toilet on your next trip and try it out! Human waste is one of the most visible indicators of whether management standards for the river are being met.

Show your preference. The West Fork river left gravel bar is a favorite fishing hole and camping spot, but the pit toilet outhouse is located on river right. For the past two years, a portable toilet has been maintained on river left. This year, the Glennallen Field Office plans to place a pit toilet outhouse on river left. Staff will monitor soils, drainage and user preferences.

Mark your calendars. Submit applications for proposed commercial activities for the 2004 season to the Glennallen Field Office no later than January 15, 2004. More than 12 commercial operations are eligible for authorization during the 2003 season.

FishWatch. Volunteer campground hosts at both Paxson Lake and Sourdough Creek campgrounds will monitor Gulkana River conditions under the FishWatch program, an initiative of the Copper River Watershed Project (copperriver.org).



Frontier Flashes

NEWS FROM AROUND ALASKA

Fairbanks. BLM's Alaska Fire Service will conduct a number of beneficial burns to remove hazardous fuels or improve wildlife habitat. Several of the projects are on military bases in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Delta Junction.

In Fairbanks, crews will burn the small arms range on Ft. Wainwright. The range is periodically burned to prevent munitions from igniting vegetation later in the season. If weather conditions cooperate, prescribed fires also will be set on some of the larger ordinance ranges on the base.

Coldfoot. The new Arctic Interagency Visitor Center will open on an interim basis at the end of June 2003.

The 6,500-square-foot facility will offer a fully-functional information counter, trip-planning area and bookstore, and programs featuring the arctic landscape, its history and resources. However, permanent exhibits will not be installed until late fall. When the center opens officially in the spring of 2004, it will be complete.

The building is specially designed to remain unheated through the long arctic winter. Rodd Moretz, BLM's design

engineer for the project said, "You have to assume that everything is going to move with temperature changes... it's all designed with that in mind." Temperatures in the Coldfoot area have occasionally dipped below -80°F.

Anchorage. BLM has received a formal request for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest from the State of Alaska to confirm the State's ownership of approximately 450 miles of riverbeds in the Black River drainage. BLM will accept comments from the public on the State's application through August 8. This is the first of many such applications that BLM expects to receive.

Sitka. Public Land Order 7560 withdraws 63 acres near Sitka for selection by the Haida Corporation. This acreage will fulfill Haida's remaining entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act although BLM will have residual survey and patent obligations. BLM also stands ready to assist Haida and the Forest Service in completing another legislatively-directed exchange for lands near Hydaburg when the two parties are ready to proceed.

Anchorage. BLM-Alaska's Division of Cadastral Survey recently received the U.S. Department of the Interior's merit safety award. The prestigious award recognized the Branch of Field Surveys for having no "loss of time" for any employees in 2000 and 2001, and, no accidents for 2002.

Surveying in the remote parts of Alaska is inherently dangerous work involving travel by aircraft, helicopters, boats and on foot. Avoiding falls, strains and sprains while carrying heavy equipment are a constant concern. Surveyors use a variety of hand and power tools to clear brush and some carry firearms for protection from bears. Each spring surveyors take a two-week refresher course in aviation, bear and helicopter safety, firearms certification and chainsaw operation.



Teresa McPherson

Council members examine artifacts from the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District following a quarterly meeting in April. The artifacts are housed at the University of Alaska Museum in Fairbanks.

Advisory group to get new members this fall

BLM recently put out a call for nominations for the Resource Advisory Council (RAC), a statewide advisory group that provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on land and resource management issues in Alaska. The RAC includes a cross section of Alaskans from around the state representing energy, tourism and commercial recreation interests; environmental, archaeological and historic interests; and elected officials, Alaska Native organizations and the public at large.

The nomination period concluded April 21. BLM received 22 nominations, including several current members who may be reappointed to consecutive terms. State Director Henri Bisson will review the nominees, consult with the governor and forward his list of recommendations to Secretary Gayle Norton in June. The Secretary will announce appointments in September. Appointments become effective Oct. 1.

For more info about the RAC, visit www.ak.blm.gov/advisory.

Anchorage. BLM, other federal agencies and the North Slope Borough are developing a new strategy for a comprehensive science plan for the North Slope. As new development proposals are considered for different areas in NPR-A, BLM realized that it needs to expand on the role of its existing Resource and Monitoring Team. One option is to develop a scientific plan that encompasses the entire North Slope ecosystem and involves federal, state and local agencies and the public.

"The intention is to better coordinate, plan for and acquire the science we need to make and defend our future decisions as development proceeds. I think that this effort could eliminate duplicate research efforts, provide better coordination between all the interested parties and save a lot of time and money," said BLM Alaska State Director Henri Bisson in remarks before The Alliance at a May luncheon.

(below) **Ft. Egbert, about 1903**

UAF Elmer E. Rasmuson Library/Jill Shephard Collection



Eagle. A grant from Save America's Treasures funds this summer's restoration of the Fort Egbert Non-Commissioned Officers quarters.

Plans are to refurbish the building down to the original paint and wallpaper to help give visitors the most authentic experience possible of this remote Frontier military outpost. Anchorage architect Sam Combs researched the original external paint color and wallpapers.

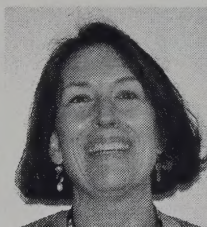
Previous work repaired windows, doors, foundation and roof.

The US Army built Fort Egbert in 1899. Soon, the remote post became the key communications center for the 1,506 mile-long Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System (WAMCATS) completed on June 29, 1903. Eventually abandoned by the military, Fort Egbert was passed to the State of Alaska, then to BLM. In 1991 the Eagle Historical Society and Museums, the City of Eagle and BLM signed a cooperative agreement to maintain and protect this valuable historic fort.

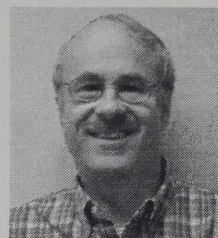
For more information, contact the Tok Field Office at 907-883-5121, or visit the Eagle Historical Society & Museums website at www.eagleak.org.

Frontier People

BLM-Alaska State Director Henri Bisson recently named a number of new people to his management team.



Colleen McCarthy is the new Deputy State Director for Energy and Solid Minerals. She has previously worked as an engineer at the Joint Pipeline Office.



Gary Reimer is the new Deputy State Director for Conveyance Management. Previously he worked at the Joint Pipeline Office.



Peter Ditton is serving a one-year detail as acting Associate State Director. He has previously served as the manager of BLM's Anchorage Field Office.



Ramona Chinn is now the Associate Deputy State Director for Conveyance Management. She has many years experience with BLM's conveyance program.



Ku Mushovic

Glennallen. Jeff Crocker (left, in striped cap) and Tom Dilts (right, with compass) were among several BLM's Glennallen Field Office (GFO) employees who made presentations at the first Earth Discovery Day event, organized by the Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment. Held at the new Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve headquarters site, the event was attended by virtually every fifth and sixth grader in the Copper River School District.

Dilts, an employee of the Environmental Careers Organization and stationed at GFO, and Crocker, GFO's GIS specialist, presented a session on navigation by map and compass. Wildlife biologist Kari Rogers described wildlife communities, while outdoor recreation planners Marcia Butorac and Denton Hamby provided "leave no trace" camping information.

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